GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:654
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
ACTION AGAINST CABLE OPERATORS
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to empower the local Station House Officer or sub- inspector of Local Police to take action against cable operator including seizure of assets in case the operator does not telecast DD-National, DD-Metro and DD-Bharati on prime band (i.e. 1 to 12 bands);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been found that compliance of Government`s orders regarding telecasting of DD channels is very low;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when such orders are strictly made mandatory for all cable operators?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (e): The Cable Networks Regulation Act, 1995 provides for Authorized Officers, whichinclude, District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Commissioner of Police, within theirlocal limits of jurisdiction, and other officers notified by Central Government or State Governmentsto take action against Cable Operators for violations of the provisions of the Act. It is the constant endeavor of Prasar Bharati to obtain compliance of the provisions of the Act, with regard to compulsory transmission of the notified Doordarshan Channels. Although instances of non- compliance have come to notice, Doordarshan is carrying out an awareness campaign to make people aware of their rights. The government is also taking up the matter with State Governments toensure that the notified officers ensure compliance by Cable Operators in this regard. Doordarshan has informed that they are meeting Cable Operators at regular intervals to monitor the Doordarshan channels being carried by the Cable Operators.